

Remarks

Claims 3-5 and 13-14 are now pending in the application. Claims 3-5 have been amended herein. Claims 1-2, and 6-12 have been canceled herein. Claims 13 and 14 have been added herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 3-5 subject to being rewritten in independent form. Claims 3-5 have been amended to independent form. New dependent claims 13 and 14 are each dependent from claim 3, and correspond to original claims 4 and 5, respectively. A combination of the features recited in claim 3, and claim 4 or 5 is described throughout the specification. Thus, no new matter has been introduced by the addition of claims 13 and 14. Other rejected claims and non-elected claims have been canceled herein.

Therefore, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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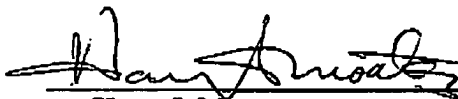
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Expires: January 2, 2007



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